

6.4.3 The Clean Air Act

1970 Amenements

- Established the National Ambient Air Quality Standards(NAAQS) for stationary sources and placed limits on mobile sources.
- Established the New Source Performance Standards(NSPS) which mandated a strict limit on emissions from new pollution sources.
- Expanded on the State Implementation Plans(SIPs) to carry out mandates.

1977 Amendments

- Categorized regions into attainment and non-attainment regions.
- Non-attainment designation occurred if region emitted in excess of any federal standard.
- If a region complied with federal standards, it was designated as a PSD, which stands for prevention of significant deterioration.
- Lengthened federal deadlines for meeting pollution reduction, particularly in regards to mobile emissions sources.

1990 Amendments

- Established a sulfur dioxide(SO_x) and a nitrous oxide(NO_x) cap and trade program. Under this program, an emissions cap is set and permits are issued. An emitter of SO_x or NO_x must have a permit for each unit of pollutant they release. These emissions permits may be traded(bought and sold) amongst polluting parties to minimize costs.
- Mandated the control of 189 Hazardous Pollutants.
- Updated and expanded provisions of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Source(s): The United States Congress, Public Law 108-201, The Clean Air Act as amended through February 24, 2004; EPA, The History of the Clean Air Act, http://www.epa.gov/air/caa/caa_history.html